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Minutes of Berry's Creek Technical Advisory Group Meeting
July 2, 1985

The fifth meeting of the TAG took place at the HMDC Environment Center in Lyndhurst. The following people were in attendance: Hank Garie (DEP), Rich Dime (DEP), Bob Will (Corps), Oksana Yaremko (Corps), Paul Galluzzi (HMDC), George Harvell (Velsicol), Fred Ziegler (Morton Thiokol), Larry Schmidt (DEP). Also in attendance were Joe Maher (DEP), and Jim Orr (ERM Southeast). The meeting was called to order by Larry Schmidt shortly after 11:00AM. The minutes of the June 11 meeting were approved with one minor correction requested by Paul Galluzzi. Paul asked that a statement attributed to him be changed to read that ---"TAG would formally consider his research study plan on the fill material---", (page 4 of 6/11 Minutes).

Larry Schmidt distributed research scopes prepared by the Waterways Experiment Station (WES). The three documents were numbered 24A, 24B, and 24C. Mr. Schmidt noted that WES did not prepare a scope on the research question in which a pre-proposal had already been submitted by Simkins and Good. Mr. Schmidt said that Dr. Lee of WES felt that the Simkins/Good proposal was independently acceptable and WES's participation in that area of research would not be warranted.

Fred Ziegler offered a projected time schedule that would integrate the preparation of the request for proposal (RFP) with the Task IV research and the completion of Task I. Fred indicated that a first draft of the RFP would be completed by July 15 for review by TAG. He anticipated a SAC meeting on July 31 at which time the RFP could be finally approved and put on the street by the first week in August. He further felt that Task I could be completed by the end of July and integrated into the RFP along with obtaining a commitment on the research tasks by WES.

Bob Will of the New York District reported that in his conversations with Dick Lee of WES, there was a positive feeling that WES wanted to take on the three research questions commencing in FY 86. This, of course, would be subject to approval of scope and budget by the SAC and final authorization by Corps Headquarters.

Bob further indicated that Headquarters would have to rule that the research had a general public benefit and could be considered to have a "national" application. A finding would also have to be made that the proposed research would not unduly interfere with private sector capabilities. Hank Garie interjected that many decisions must first be made regarding refinement to the scope of work, the budget, and intergreations of the three WES proposals with that of Simkins and Good. Fred Ziegler noted that a working session would be held



on July 9 at which time the scopes of the research could be finalized irrespective of possible Corps participation. Fred also stated that Dr. Bartha could participate directly or as a general consultant to TAG. The group felt that Dr. Bartha had an excellent feel for the research questions and that he should be utilized in some capacity. Bob Will concluded the discussion by stating that there was a need to meet with WES to discuss research proposals. Those contacts should be made directly with WES with the New York District skipped over. As members of TAG Bob and Oksana would have to abstain in recommending research contracts to WES.

Jim Orr gave a summary presentation on the status of Task I. He indicated that all comments on the first draft work should have been submitted by June 28. Final drafts structured as three volumes will be completed by ERM by July 15. Final drafts will have to be reviewed by the next TAG meeting.

Larry Schmidt asked Jim Orr if there would be abstracts of the most pertinent literature? Larry indicated that Jorge Berkowitz is anticipating a "classic literature search". Fred Ziegler responded by indicating that the three documents will summarize data and background, however perspective contractors will have to do their share of literature review as part of preparing the proposal. Fred felt that the volume, entitled Nature of the Problem will tie together all of the loose pieces relative to the mercury problem in Berry's Creek. Rich Dime asked whether or not Task I would be something suitable for all publics not just perspective contractors. Fred also responded by indicating that the various publics will get a separate product, one to be formulated in the Task X Public Participation effort.

Fred Ziegler raised a question on the acceptability of the list of term contractors. Joe Maher indicated that the list was complete subject to the companies getting the necessary insurance and signing contracts with DEP. Larry Schmidt asked if the procurement process has been finalized and whether or not it would be relatively free from legal challenges. Joe Maher responded by saying that a meeting was set up with Joe Wiley of DEP, the Department of Treasury and the attorneys to address the procurement process. Larry Schmidt noted that this is more of a SAC function but the TAG should be also involved since it will be reviewing proposals.

Fred Ziegler reported that he had taken a first shot at preparing a plan for routine monitoring and had given the plan to Hank Garie. It will be Hank Garie's responsibility to finalize the plan and submit it to TAG for review and approval. George Harvell noted that routine monitoring is in the Cooperative Agreement at \$15,000/yr. He asked if DEP will be doing the monitoring or if it is to be contracted out?

Hank Garie in reviewing the first draft Monitor Plan indicated that more biota should be included in the plan. Paul Galluzzi said that the HMDC is planning to collect and analyze some waterfowl this fall. A question was raised on the need to collect additional sediment samples. Fred Ziegler felt that routine sampling of sediments would add more points to a chronological plot -- changes over time. Hank Garie said that he would cost out the proposed monitoring plan with the additional biota and submit it to TAG. It was also agreed that sampling should be done of site run-off after storm events at the area of the industrial park development in the wetlands.

The discussion then turned to substantial comments on the review of Task I documents. Paul Galluzzi pointed out the need for consistent nomenclature with respect to Berry's Creek and the West Riser Ditch and the East Riser Ditch. He noted that the waterway adjacent to the Velsicol site is the West Riser Ditch. Paul also gave to Jim Orr a copy of an unpublished document of HMDC which analyzed Berry's Creek sediments for six heavy metals from Route 3 northward to the West River Ditch. Jim Orr indicated that he would include this document by reference into Task I.

Joe Maher and Rich Dime observed a problem with how sampling stations corresponded on the large and the small scale maps. Jim Orr responded by saying the two map sets are independent of each other and are based on raw data as collected. Fred Ziegler recommended an appendix for each map so that the data could be retrieved. There was no decision by TAG or ERM to prepare such an appendix.

The TAG members then proceeded with a discussion of how the material in Task I could best be organized so that perspective contractors could take maximum advantage of the work product. As a result of that discussion, the following recommendations were made to ERM:

1. A users manual should be prepared on how to utilize the data (reference to IBM P.C. and "Revelation" software program).
2. An explanation is needed on how the data is quantified noting that there is really insufficient data to date to develop trends.
3. To make clear that the existing information should only be used in the design of future data collection and analysis.

Hank Garie was critical of the first draft of Submission 23 - Nature of the Problem. He indicated that the author had placed too much emphasis on a potential problem in the Berry's Creek basin. Hank requested that the report be rewritten to emphasize that there is indeed a problem with mercury contamination in the Berry's Creek drainage basin. Fred Ziegler and Jim Orr agreed to review document 23 and make appropriate changes.

The meeting ended at 3:00pm with a proposed date of July 25 for the next TAG meeting.